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Musket

Vol. XXXI, No. 7 Lexington High School, Lexington, Mass. April 1, 1998

Photo by Dan Myung

Photo by Caroline Loomis

SHAMELESSLY GUILTY - After being apprehended for his underhanded attempt at kidnapping pulchritudinous chemistry teacher Judith Masselam (r), principal "Punxsatawney Phil" Lanoue (l) squeals with giddy delight at the near-success of his two-year obsession with this "jewel of the science department."

LHS loses accreditation over credit interpretation dispute

By Christine Chiou

Earlier this month, representatives of the State Board of Education met with Lexington Public Schools Superintendent Jeffrey Young and Lexington High School Principal Philip Lanoue to inform them that the high school would lose its accreditation, effective April 1, 1998, over a dispute stemming from the school's interpretation of the new 990 hours per year class requirement.

LHS students, especially graduating seniors, are enraged by the latest development in this ongoing saga, which has already resulted in the withdrawal of several seniors' college acceptances.

Senior Jason LeeKeenan, who had been accepted early to Harvard and Radcliffe Colleges, was notified that his acceptance was rescinded until school officials are able to resolve this issue.

"I've worked my ass off for the last four years, stayed up all night studying, and received a total of 1600 high-scorer awards in Tetris only to be told that I've lost my college acceptance," lamented LeeKeenan. "My parents are considering suing the school, and my life is ruined."

Senior Sarah Park, who was planning a career in the US Marine corps after attending the US Naval Academy, met a similar fate. "All my dreams have been dashed," sighed Park. "Now I may have to enlist in the Army."

"The most likely solution I can see is for the Town of Lexington to secede from the State of Massachusetts and become part of New Hampshire."

-Superintendent Jeffrey Young

"All I wanted was to be a Barbizon model. I've got the hair, the smile - all the credentials. I even applied early to the Barbizon school and was accepted," sighed Julie Marcal. "I quit like all my activities after being accepted. Now what am I going to do? This is terrible. It's, like, semi-psychotic. No wait, it is psychotic."

The troubling incidents which led to this disastrous turn of events came as a result of Lanoue's liberal interpretation of activities appropriate for classroom equivalent hours. While participation in such activities as student council, the debate team, drama programs, and the National Honor Society did not strike state examiners as being unacceptable, the allowing of credit for other activities raised eyebrows. For example, the allowance of 70 hours of credit for smoking cigarettes each morning at the corner of Muzzey Street and Park Drive seemed unorthodox to examiners. Lanoue disagreed. "Heck, I go out each morning and join the kids on the corner and smoke a butt myself. It seems like a perfectly valid use of time to me."

Other controversial allowances were 10 hours for attending the senior prom and 20 hours for applying makeup prior to the prom; 30 hours for cruising Worthen Road in search of a parking space; 20 hours for creative artwork in restroom stalls; and 50 hours for hanging out in the Center during free blocks and X block, engaged in Starbucks coffee taste testing.

Assistant Principal George Mechem justified these allowances by asserting, "The school population has grown so rapidly that we no longer have room in our facilities to accommodate the required level of

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"Punxsatawney Phil" Lanoue arrested in Masselam abduction

By Margot Minardi

On March 31, Lexington High School principal Phil Lanoue was apprehended at Dunkin' Donuts by Officer Dana Ham. Lanoue, who was "just getting donuts", was arrested by Ham, also allegedly "getting donuts," for the kidnapping of LHS chemistry teacher Judith Masselam. The scene was witnessed by several members of Masselam's morning class, who claimed to be at the esteemed donut establishment to "do a lab".

"I started out in science. I was a biology teacher before I was a principal. Science has a special meaning for me."

-Prinicipal "Phil" Lanoue

Masselam's odyssey through hell began two years ago, on Valentine's Day. A mysterious singing Valentine, signed "Punxsatawney Phil", arrived for her, much to the amusement and delight of class member Dan Shiau. Recalled Shiau, "It was nice to have the class focused on someone other than me."

Masselam's hasty investigation yielded nothing; she could think of no one named Phil who might do such a thing, nor had she had any recent contact with groundhogs. Apparently, Masselam had forgotten -- she "always [forgets] names" -- that LHS had a new principal. His name was Phil Lanoue, and science was his thing.

"Don't forget," Lanoue recently reminisced, "I started out in science. I was a biology

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Ten students advance to State Science Fair

By Offer Egozy

On March 11, 1998, the Lexington High School science department held the tenth annual LHS Science Fair. Out of nearly two-hundred students, ten winners were selected to advance to the state science fair, which will take place on April 1 at Bunker Hill Community College.

The grand prize winner of this year's fair was senior Saro Getzoyan for his project "Tic-Tacs or Mentos? Hiding Vodka Breath." According to the judges, his project exemplified the qualities that every great scientist should have. When asked what the secret to his success was, Getzoyan responded, "I simply took a lot of data. Whenever I had free time, I tried to work on my experiments. Occasionally, I even worked on this project during my physics class, as Mr. Hinkle offered to help with my testing."

The judges were especially impressed with the support Getzoyan received from the science department. "I was astounded on how practically every member of the faculty wanted to assist Saro with his experiments," one judge commented. Getzoyan hopes that his research will lead to more important discoveries in the near future, as this topic affects the lives of so many teenagers everyday.

The runners-up to Saro were two diligent seniors who each won second place awards. Rasheed Townes won for his project, "The Amazing, Incredible, Stupendous, Real Live Chia Clone," and Michal Zilberman won for her project, "The Usage of Marijuana for Glaucoma Prevention Among High Schoolers."

Both Townes and Zilberman also received grants from Raytheon to investigate their work further. Townes hopes that one day he will be able to create a new race of Chia Pets, while Zilberman plans to use her grant to "help high school students everywhere fight glaucoma."

Probably the biggest surprise of the competition was the failure by LHS alumna Felicia Kuo. Kuo, who returned from the PLME program at Brown University to participate in the LHS Science Fair, presented her project, "An In-Depth Analysis of the Schartz-Metterklume Method." Despite previously being bejeweled with countless accolades (and vigorously

FAIR *continued on page 3*

Photo by Carl Tortola

RUN FOR THE BORDER - Trying to escape the tyrannical 990-hour rule of the Massachusetts Board of Education, senior Ken Kolodziej flees to Canada, muttering, "I don't belong in this country anyway."

LHS may face buffer crisis

By Adam Bund

School administrators and local police are troubled by what they term "the buffer crisis." On the morning of Monday, March 30, several students moved a janitor's buffing machine from a closet inside D house to the sidewalk outside.

"It's tragic, very, very tragic when students start putting buffers on the campus. It's downright disrespectful," said an angry Principal Philip Lanoue.

When asked what harm a single buffer can cause, Lanoue replied, "Buffers breed buffers. If [the administration] hadn't responded quickly, students across the school might have started to bring buffers outside."

In response to rumors that Political Thought students had laughed at the incident, Lanoue scoffed. "Sure, they're laughing now, but I'd like to see how they feel when they're up to their neck in buffers. And it's not just buffers. Soon students would be bringing out brooms, vacuum cleaners, waxers, even...entire refreshment machines."

Lanoue added that "Students think the problem just goes away - but it doesn't - it took six janitors four hours to get that buffer back into D house - a trip of nearly 15 feet." Administrators have also raised safety concerns, which are shared by some students. "I almost tripped over that buffer," said senior Steve Kerr. "Fortunately, I kicked my legs into high gear." The "buffer crisis" does create more serious safety concerns. "I can kill a man with a buffer," said senior Sheaumei Tsai, "I can!" Assistant Principal Tony Capezza corroborated this claim, "It's definitely possible. I've seen it done."

According to history teacher and *Musket* advisor Sam Kafrissen, "It happened a lot in the 60s. People would use buffers to avoid the draft. I wish someone had gotten Nixon with one." Kafrissen's colleague Richard Kollen said that he believes "most buffer incidents are related to a misinterpretation of the grandfather clause."

"Buffers breed buffers. If [the administration] hadn't responded quickly, students across the school might have started to bring buffers outside...Students think the problem just goes away - but it doesn't - it took six janitors four hours to get that buffer back into D house - a trip of nearly 15 feet."

-Principal Philip D. Lanoue

Other students support the deployment of buffers. "I find that buffer very humorous," stated senior Bill Potter after several moments of consideration. Freshman Kristine Kao suggested that we count buffer related activities toward 990 hours. Senior Steve Hayden, a Waltham resident, said that he uses a buffer to style his hair. "It's much more powerful then the ones the janitors use, though. It's very big." said Hayden. "But I only use a little bit of gel."

His classmate, Ayon Roy, feels that time lost investigating the buffer could be better spent fighting racism and supporting cultural diversity. "Racism is a plague which infiltrates every corner of our society," the techno-savvy Roy concluded.

Local police are still investigating the incident. One possible suspect, senior Ken Kolodziej, has passed the blame to others. He admitted, however, that the crime intrigues him. "If I got my hands on that buffer I'd ride it clear across campus. I'd wear a cowboy hat and swing a lasso...or a laseeew, as they call them in the south."

Chemistry teacher Mrs. Judith Massalem criticized Kolodziej's pronunciation. "Oh sugarfoot...Ken's not a classy guy at all," she declared. Meanwhile, possible accessory to the crime Saro Getzoyan denied loading the buffer into his car. "My trunk's been clean since after my 18th birthday party. Don't look in the trunk," he firmly commanded. Without probable cause, police will have to grant Getzoyan's wish. If not, he plans to take them to court.

990 hours remains an obstacle for LHS

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classroom programming. I don't see anything wrong with encouraging kids to be off campus exercising their creativity during school time. Some of my best work as a high school student was done off campus."

Young has tried unsuccessfully to mediate the difference of opinion between LHS representatives and the State Board of Education. "I've done everything I can think of to bring this crisis to a successful conclusion. The state is being totally unreasonable," protested Young.

When asked what the likely next step in solving this problem would be, Young responded, "The most likely solution I can see is for the Town of Lexington to secede from the State of Massachusetts and become part of New Hampshire. Besides, New Hampshire has no sales tax."

Students have organized in support of the administration by marching at the State House and forming weekend caravans to New Hampshire in search of a new site for the high school. The students contacted and commissioned the high school's original architects to design a new school without doors to be constructed on a windy bluff at the base of Mount Monadnock.

While the controversy rages, seniors who find themselves without colleges for the upcoming year are considering forming a full-time charter college in Key West, Florida. Theirs will be a school without walls, according to a reliable source.

"Phil" Lanoue unveiled as secret Masselam admirer

PHIL *continued from page 1*

teacher before I was a principal. Science has a special meaning for me." Apparently, Lanoue was immediately infatuated with this particular science teacher on his first day at the school, when he happened to drop in on Masselam's class. Sources report that Masselam was, not surprisingly, wearing her "drop-dead gorgeous white suit".

"Punxsatawney Phil" again sent singing Valentines in each of the two years since his original appearance, but until two days ago, Masselam still was unaware of his true identity. On March 30, while walking out to her car, Masselam ran across a trail of Coca-Cola six-packs. Always on the lookout for sources of free carbonated refreshment, Masselam gathered up the soda cans like black-eyed peas for the harvest. The trail led her back through the school, into the main office, and finally to a 24-case of Sprite sitting just inside the door of Principal Phil Lanoue's secret hideout/office.

Lanoue, wearing a grotesque groundhog costume, pulled Masselam inside and locked the door. Apparently suffering from schizophrenia rodentia, Lanoue ranted, "If I can't leave my hole, neither can you!" Masselam, confused, began drinking her Coke. Lanoue removed his groundhog headpiece, and the two calmly discussed the virtues of various science teachers and department heads until Lanoue became hungry, and made his fateful trip to Dunkin Donuts.

Masselam is unsure what would have happened had Lanoue not been captured – it is clear that she would have been set free by the vernal equinox, if not sooner. Meanwhile, she says, "No one can compete with the fat lady for sheer villainy. Also, I got Coke."

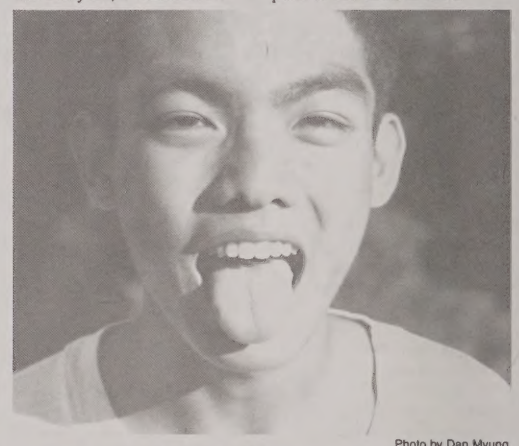


Photo by Dan Myung

FRESH MOUTH - After having polished it clean with a personal cordless buffer, senior Dave Wong proudly shows off his sparkling tongue.

$1 Off Any Ticket to Asian Night!

hosted by the Asian Club on

Friday, May 1, 1998

7:00-9:00 PM, in J-Caf

This is an annual festival featuring great food and entertainment!

Tickets bought from club members in advance are normally $8 for adults and $6 for children

Tickets bought at the door are $10 for adults and $8 for children

cash value: 1/100¢ offer expires May 2, 1998

News Briefs

NADKARNI WILL GET COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR EATING LUNCH

In a recent response to junior Ashwini Nadkarni's rousing (February 9) letter to the editor the administration showed that it would not stop at granting band members community service for parade participation.

On March 23, the administration stated: "Eating lunch is truly a service to our community…if we count the minutes band members spend scratching their armpits or picking their nasal orifices, then in all fairness, how can we possibly refuse to grant hours for lunch consumption?"

The movement to receive community service for lunch consumption was spearheaded by Nadkarni, who commented that "after all, the effort that we put into dutifully purchasing our lunches from the cafeteria, or driving down to Aesop's does create jobs!"

TWELVE NAMED NATIONAL FERRET SCHOLARS

The 3,000 scholars selected in the 1st National Ferret Scholarship Program included twelve LHS seniors. Congratulations to Mohammed Al-Mazeedi, Herbert Chen, Eun Young Choi, Ethan Fried, Kurt Kastorf, Josh Magri, Julie Marcal, Caitlin Rollins, Oliver Sellers-Garcia, James Shi, S.J. Tripi and Sheaumei Tsai. Winners were selected for their excellence in displaying ferret-like qualities such as stealing food, looking cute and fuzzy, having a disproportionately BIG head, scheming, having a high, screechy voice, or biting and annoying peers.

24 HOUR RELAY CHALLENGE PARTICIPANTS GO FOR THE GRADES

On March 31, Principal Philip Lanoue announced that 24-Hour Relay Challenge participants will not only receive the invaluable satisfaction of being part of a team consisting of high school kids and old people from around the town but will also get 24 additional credits and an additional point added to their GPA's.

When asked why this drastic measure was taken, Lanoue stated that "Before the new participation incentives were offered, we had two participants; now we have over two hundred."

LHS publications now have a musical voice

By Christine Chiou

Most people read works published by LHS students have little idea about what goes on to make their production possible. No one but the actual editors know the whole story. The Editors IC was formed to get the story out and to tell it right. The band includes local superstars Carl Tortola and Dan Myung, editors-in-Chief of the Yearbook, as well as the versatile Eric Hou and freelance drummer Jamie Watt.

"We just got real tired of being just in one room, so to speak," said lead singer Tortola. "After working like six months on this thing, we had a lot of angst built up, and we had to get it out in some form." Guitarist Myung added, "It seemed like the next step after publishing a book."

The way the band formed has a storybook quality to it as well. The editors founded their own two-man group, Yearbook Rulz, which received only a lukewarm response at Band Night. The two decided to add bassist "Razin" Dan Hazen and Hou, who can play five instruments, including bass and viola. The stage was set for an early March comeback.

However, tragedy struck when two crazed fans, Rasheed Townes and Matt Oliff, rushed the stage, causing Hazen to fall and sprain his wrist, crippling any chance of a professional career. In a rare, one-time-only interview, Hazen had this to say about the incident: "It used to be about the music, man. But now…now it's about the fans going crazy."

Tortola and Myung returned the Yearbook Room distraught and disillusioned about the harsh world of Rock & Roll music. "We were really bummed out by what had happened," explained Myung, "I mean, I thought everyone was supposed to get along and all, and then this happens. Such senseless violence…and on top of all that, no one listened to the music!" The duo spent some time examining what they had done. "What we were really doing was expressing whatever we were feeling at the time. Since we had all these mood swings, we just weren't consistent." The two founders decided to go back to their Yearbook roots.

The group's first priority was writing new material. For their original pieces, the group decided to either write new music or just totally rip off some other artist, à la Puff Daddy. The next item on the band's revamp agenda was a replacement for the fallen Hazen. It came in the form of Watt. "We just saw him tapping his feet to some U2 song and we thought, 'Hey, that kid can hold a beat.' It was a real nice coincidence that he actually did play the drums," Tortola laughed. "When we saw him play for the first time, he put flash powder all over the drum set, and they would explode every time he hit them. I said 'Dan, we want that kid before Cannonade takes him.' Lucky for us Cannonade already had a drummer – it was that kid from Hanson."

There was only one thing left to do. "We really needed a new name," explained Myung, "'Rulz' is such an old term, and we really wanted to show that we were brand new." The band chose the name The Editors IC to signify what they were, and where they were going. "We just threw a bunch of names in the hat and we pulled out that one first."

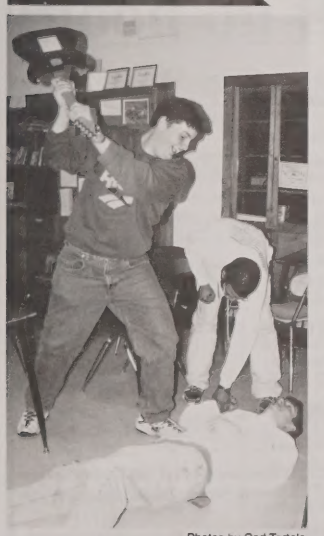
The band was now ready to record. In what must be a music-writing record, the EIC wrote and recorded 13 songs in just one week. The set culminated in the band's first album, "Yearbook." Included among the songs were "Cropper," "Pica," "Body Mike Blues," and "Herff Jones and Me." But then the band hit a snag. "We did the album, but we needed to get the word out," said Watt.

The band needed a manager. Since almost everyone involved with the band came from Yearbook, Tortola and Myung sought the guidance of business manager Ken Kolodziej. The transition for Kolodziej was not hard at all. "He just sat around barking directions. That's not hard at all," explained Myung.

Though the mechanics of Kolodziej's management were easy to deal with, everything else became an uphill battle for Tortola and Myung. EIC was not the first band that Kolodziej had managed. Ragin' Canadians and, more recently, Armenian B.A.S.S. were two of his bigger projects. Kolodziej was known to handle his bands roughly, yet thoroughly, kind of like a logger handles logs. "He started pushing us in a more techno direction, like his other bands. That's when we just had to pull the plug," explained Tortola. "What we wanted was someone with Yearbook roots as well as connections." The band had to look no farther than Bill Potter. "Bill could really talk to us, y'know? We wanted to do something, and all he would say is 'When do you want to do it?'" added Myung. The Editors IC could now begin their climb to fame.

Photo by Carl Tortola

ONE-MAN ORCHESTRA - EIC band member junior Eric Hou plays solo on his viola (shown), bass (not shown), cymbals (not shown), and harmonica (not shown) during a performance of a favorite "Yearbook" number, "Grease Pencils of Fire."



Photos by Carl Tortola

WHEN THE FAN HITS THE...SINGER - Violent moshing goes a step too far with the gleefully sadistic attack of crazed seniors Matt Oliff and Rasheed Townes ending up with erstwhile EIC bassist "Razin" Dan Hazen flailing helplessly

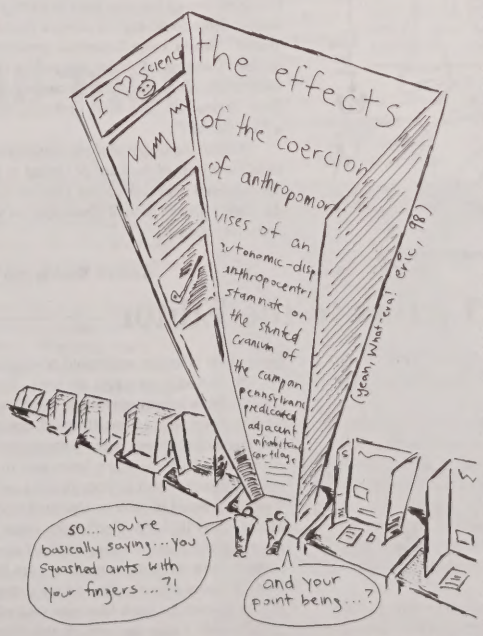
Students' experiments exhibit mastery of all parts of science

FAIR *continued from page 1*

reminding the judges of her previous successes), Kuo placed 147th. Dr. Nicolas Tzimopoulos, coordinator of sciences at Lexington High School, was utterly astounded. "I can't believe it's not Kuo!" Tzimopolous exclaimed when the first place winner was announced. Senior Srinath Gaddam, with his project "Beans: Magical, Menacing or Merely Musical?" was especially proud that he placed 146th, right before Kuo.

Three third place winners and three honorable mentions were also chosen to advance to the state science fair. Junior Chris Lucas won a third place award for his project, "Wearing Shorts in Sub-Zero Temperatures," while junior Kenneth Weinstein won for his project, "A Physical Comparison Between Mr. Yelland and Steve Martin." Senior Jeremy Silber also won a third place award for his project, "Uranus: Mighty Gas Giant." After the award ceremonies, a number of people tried to talk with Silber about his fascinating topic. Unfortunately, he was not available for comment. Silber's father, who were present, apologized for his absence: "Jeeeeeeermmmmy can't talk right now. Jeeeeeermmmmy's talking to the Judges!"

Senior Ram Gowda, sophomore Yuen-Jong Liu and freshman Jackie Ou each received honorable mentions for their projects. Gowda analyzed the correlation between black holes and papers handed into biology teacher Mrs. Schwartz. "This was such a super topic," Gowda explained. "In the same way that light disappears when it enters a black hole, papers handed into Mrs. Schwartz never seem to return!"


I ♥ science
the effects
of the coercion
of anthropomor
so... you're basically saying... you squashed ants with your fingers...?!
and your point being...?

Cartoon by Eric Hou

Math genius Little-Buddha Liu won for his project, "A Qualitative Analysis of Acme Products And Their Effects On The Laws of Cartoon Quantum Mechanics." Although he insisted that all of his experimentation had been theoretical, Liu looked a little short at the science fair judging, almost as if an anvil had been dropped on his head. Freshman Jackie Ou won for her project, "How Fast Can I Talk." In her experiments she competed against energetic debaters including Heidi "Slick" Manschreck and Alex "Suave" Sturtevant. Her data, however, indicated that words flew out of her mouth twenty-two times faster than the best debater.

"Clearly, the 1998 LHS Science Fair was an overwhelming success," chemistry teacher and science fair coordinator Judy Masselam commented after the award ceremony. Undoubtedly, much of that success is a result of the hard work that Masselam has put into this endeavor. She expects that the long hours she has given to the science fair will pay off soon, as she hopes to publish a novel about her life as a science teacher in an upper-middle-class suburban town, entitled "Salted Pigs and All That Jazz: The Memoirs of Hey Jude."

Photo by Dan Myung

I DON'T WANT TO WAIT...FOR TONIGHT'S EPISODE - This sprawling collection of magazine clippings on the window blinds of J-60 shines brighter than the sun for the eyes of math student teacher and *Dawson's Creek* devotee Kurt Oehler, whose "shrine" to the hit TV show enables him to entrap innocent students into his personal cult.

Dawson's Creek obsession rages

First appearances are often deceptive, especially in the case of the heart of the math department, J-60. With its yellow championship banner and the well-lighted trophy case filled with mathematical accolades on the outside, most would be shocked to find a shrine for the hit TV drama *Dawson's Creek* growing inside on the blinds like a slimy parasite. This ridiculous craze is crippling the ability of students and faculty alike to properly operate in an school environment.

At the root of this hideous montage of so-called "artistic" magazine photos is Texan student teacher Kurt "Ay-lor. Like Taylor without the T" Oehler. He crazily demands respect for his creation; being "completely shocked that all students have not yet brought an offering. I should squirt every jerk who doesn't bow when passing it. And from now on, everyone should call me Dawson." His callous disregard for the educational needs of math-hungry students in favor of promoting a vacuous soap opera is alarming at the least. Horribly, Oehler has resorted to placing *Dawson's Creek* trivia on quizzes to entice more people to watch it.

Terribly large proportions of the student population have already begun to succumb in full to the show. "I don't wanna wait for my life to be over. I want to know right now what will happen on the next episode," gushed junior Jason Fooks. Senior Hanshin Hsieh added, "I dyed my hair blond so people would think I was Dawson. I think it's working."

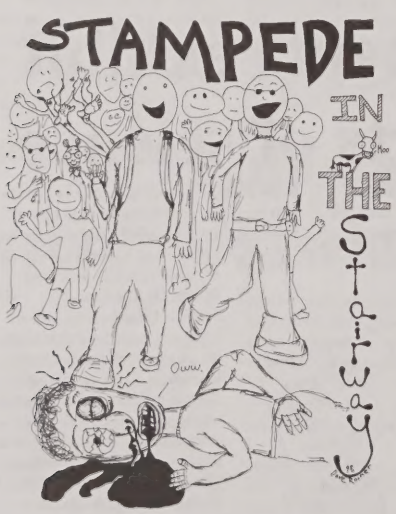
High numbers of people battling *Dawson's Creek* obsession often appear normal on the outside. Senior Frank Sun is not entirely normal, but we'll use him anyhow. On a recent half-day, Sun went home straight after school, opting to watch taped re-runs of *Dawson's Creek* rather than to hang out with friends. When asked to discuss his new fetish, he bluntly responded, "You don't understand."

Even those without a TV are steadily being hooked by the insidious nature of the show. "I have to keep updated through continual gossip sessions with friends," wailed senior Srinath Gaddam. "If only my parents hadn't sold our television for Christmas sausage links!" Oehler tries to keep *Dawson* addicts happy with in-class discussions of last night's episode.

A few level-headed students have managed to keep senior Caitlin Rollins has not been swept up in the Creek craze and is upset by the popularity of such an unrealistic show. According to Rollins, the show is only about "sex. You never see anyone playing with a TI-86 on that show. Everyone knows that you have to carry your TI-86 everywhere. How could anyone survive physics without Tetris?" Senior Jason Rosenfeld, anxiously awaiting the dreaded Calculus AP exam, begged for Oehler to "give me the mathematical education I came here for. Please, integrals, derivatives...any math problems at all. I need to get a 5 on the AP!"

Despite the overwhelming opposition, students should fight the efforts of the likes of Oehler to proselytize the entire school with their flashy *Dawson's Creek* propaganda. Don't give in to their obsession; do your homework and study instead.

-Andrew Rabkin and Carey Schwaber



Cartoon by Dave Rosner

Letters to the Editor

THE TWENTY-FOUR MARATHON: IT'S GOOD FOR BOTH STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

The twenty-four hour marathon is the best thing for this high school since the introduction of tight, black spandex shorts by the Track Goddess Tim Calvin himself! What could possibly be better than paying large sums of money to run in circles for god knows how long for no apparent reason until you finally break out into uncontrollable, asthmatic convulsions and pathetically surrender to the rock-hard pavement below? I sure can't think of anything.

And just imagine what this marathon will do for school and community spirit! I mean, if joyfully watching your peers endure agonizing torture doesn't breed togetherness, I sure don't know what does! If nothing else, students will be working together to perform all the vital tasks that the track runners will inevitably require—things like dialing 911 and performing CPR. If you ask me, sadism is totally underrated nowadays.

Oh, and let's not forget the food. I just can't wait to sink my teeth into a sumptuous, undercooked hot dog and wash it down with a urine-flavored, ectoplasm-colored thirst quencher. Some naïve skeptics argue that a marathon is silly and that a better way to build tolerance and community spirit is through open communication. I've never heard of such an absolutely ridiculous idea before in my life! For God's sake, since when has talking about our problems ever resolved anything? How could anyone think that a moronic idea like discussion could be more effective than taking a day out of our lives to scurry around a track like brainwashed guinea pigs?

Oh well, I hope that writing this letter will inspire my fellow students to join in the fun and excitement and realize that the relay challenge has finally put this school on the right track!

— Anagha Nadkarni

97-98 LHS subversive list

Celine Dion, Mike Orifice, Jack (the janitor), the Kerr Family, Buddy Hemond, the shoddy Spunkmeyer replacements, the 24-Hour Relay Challenge, Chaz O'Reilly, Nick "Jim" Vargelis, Ken "The Biz" Kolodziej, Mrs. "I don't give a flip if I'm communist" Masselam, Garo Grezeroid, Saro BASS Getzoyan, Canteen Food Services, INC., those pesky student announcers, Ritzy "pretty in red" McCarthy, Ram and Lakshmi Gowda, N.H.S., Team TI-85, Out Together and Sober, Chuck Hunt, Ayon Roy, J-House, I-House, UMASS, Steve's "Lexington Creamery" ice cream, Officer Dana "KGB" Ham, Jimbo Watt, Bob "the big man" Farias, Nick Roetter, Mehran Ahmed, Maggie Allan, Tony "the squid" Capezza, Alice Lin, Life Skills in general, Misha Horowitz, Patty Maier, Girls' Ice Hockey, the Band Kids Collaborative, Senate, Da' Dip, homework, work, Bass cars, senior Class Council, Shaw Flick, The Corner, Dr. John "Ed" Shea, Wrestlemania II, Freshman Class Council, Dr. Townes, Razin Dan Hazen, Science Building water, Dan "Lung" Myung (for messing with the pinup), The Pinup of the Week, Doug "don't I look pretty in red, too" Grant, the Writing Workshop, those new paper towel dispensers that never work, The Man, Afrosquad, Sarah Spark, Sal Rahman, pork and beans, Jason LeeKeenan, Sheaumai Tsai, Mo, Tim Attanucci, LHS GSA, Tech Crew, the X-Country Team, the Field Hockey Team, Amit Karna's yellow car, Drama kids, Steven Bogart, Scott "Trotsky" Carpenter, Eclipse Ball, Mr. Kollen, the Poetry Club, wannabe players, Spice Girls, Guacamole, Mary Marx Ruth Osten, Kurt "Shameless Flirt" Oehler, RANDOM, Indoor Crack...I mean TRACK, Mr. "Learner", Phillip D. Lanoue, ALF, Yearbook Staff, Cal Berting, Gigi, the Community Service Club, Dr. Fiveash, the French Club, Fruitopia, The Dude, Eran "ayran" Bendydick, Asian Club, Ultimate Frisbee Club, Afro Clark, Bud Reed, H.O.T., Driver's Ed, Mr. Spang, Waltham, and your mom's mom.

Photo courtesy Yearbook

1997-1998 TEAM TI-85 MEMBERS - Front row, centerfold (l to r): Strip Tetris players junior Jonny Lin and senior Charles Lock caught between tournament games.

Musket

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Relay walkers and finger fighters declare Thumb War

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orgy - but with fingers." Those interested gladly complied with the sole participation requirement that one not take part in both the Relay Challenge and the Thumb War Tournament. As a result, all but four walkers became thumb "warriors." Senior and co-president of the Community Service Club Julie Marcal was one of the four who decided to stick to strolling around the track. "Eew! Touching all those hands would be semi-psychotic. No wait – it would be psychotic!" explained Marcal.

The mass exodus sparked outrage from the Relay committee, which had spent thousands of dollars and numerous hours planning for the event. Without guidance from Relay guru Rick Phillips, who was in Four Holes, SC, designing a Challenge for Cromer High School, the remaining walkers could not figure out what to do. Instead they turned to their trusty history textbooks for advice. On Saturday, March 28, many thumb warriors found their yards adorned with toilet paper, fliers, and orange graffiti.

On the same day as the attacks, senior Becca Mayer, another Relayer and co-president of the Community Service Club, was arrested for "being annoying" but not in connection with the toilet paper assaults. In her possession were one can of red and one can of yellow spray paint, a rake, and 12 fliers which proclaimed, "You thumb punks are BAD! Sincerely, National Honor Society." Officials found Mayer loitering and mumbling, "Are you Johnny Ray?" at one of the vandalized sites. According to Mayer, she was simply "raking up these fliers which those NHS punks left behind."

Many students were outraged by the vandalism. "I knew that anyone willing to walk around a track for 24 hours was stupid," said junior Nathaniel Prottas. "But the people who are vandalizing don't seem to have a brain in their heads." Senior Eun Young Choi added, "I'm going to castrate whomever did this. Violence and destruction are never the answer."

Although the Thumb War Tournament Committee has been forced to deny people spots on team rosters due to the popularity of the event, positions still remain for those who wish to give thumb massages to weary participants and to provide entertainment, refreshments, and music. "Our team song is 'Tub Thumping,'" said junior Jason Fooks. "Our thumbs might get pinned down, but they'll get up again." Everyone involved is eagerly awaiting the extravaganza, which they say will be far superior to the Relay. "[It'll be] super," said senior morning announcement guy Dave Rosner.

Unlike the walkers, the 100 five-player teams pay nothing to participate, and in addition to "building community," which the Relay claims to do, the warriors will "cure cancer, world hunger, illiteracy, oppression, and the common cold," according to their mission statement. Fooks continued, "The best part of the Tournament is that we can still wrestle while we're pissing the night away in a port-a-potty. I don't think the walkers can do that." Unlike the Challenge, the Tournament promises to be enjoyable. "I know that my throat will be sore from saying 'One, two, three, four, I declare a thumb war' so many times," said senior Matt "Big Thumb" Oliff. "But I love thumb wars."

Photo by Caroline Loomis

IN DUBIOUS BATTLE - Bloodthirsty and savage, seniors Paul Bombara and Ayesha Khan lead a practice "thumbing" before the 24-hour Tag-Team Thumb War Tournament.

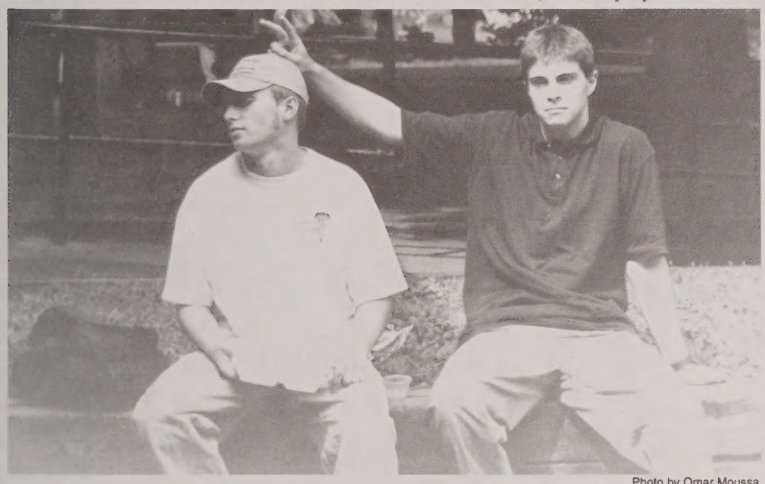

Photo by Omar Moussa

OH YOU WASCALLY WABBIT - So cruelly hobbled and humiliated by the girls' ice hockey team that he can only resort to the old "rabbit ears" ploy to vent his anger, once-proud wrestler senior Nick Storch sulks in the company of his buddy from Boys' Lacrosse, senior Jonathan Brandes.

Blood on the ice and mat

Girls' Ice Hockey high-sticks it to the wrestling team

COLD WAR continied from page 6

gathering first-lunch crowd (who wasn't hungry enough at 10:25 to eat lunch anyways) with her ingenious "Hockey Stick to The Knee A La Tonya Harding" maneuver.

Another ad rejected by the *Musket* staff:

Moe's Liquor
398 Main St., Medford

"We proudly sell to minors."

Bring your LHS ID card with you on Sundays for a 15% discount!

Storch was seen limping off, screaming "Why me?!? Why me?!?"

Meanwhile, back in the ring, sophomore Jule Lanman was taking on All-State wrestler Alex Samuels. Pinned to the ground and flailing like a beetle on its back, Samuels was heard muttering, "those #&*% hockey pants - they have to add at least ten pounds! She's no 130-pounder!" Lanman swiftly placed him in a half-nelson to Samuels' screaming "UNCLE! AUNT! WHATEVER!!!" But Lanman, who has now inherited the nickname "No Mercy," would not give in that easily. Only after a quick but painful blow to the big toe, which could be a lifelong debilitating injury for Samuels (there goes his career at University of Chicago), did she finally release her writhing victim. The Univesity of Chicago coach called Mike "The Trainer" Gloor shortly after hearing of Samuels' injury to reassure both Samuels and Gloor that they did indeed have "No-Toe Wrestling" for the significantly impaired and humiliated.

Needless to say, the girls handed the wrestling team a rousing defeat. Wrestling coach Kevin Russo said, in his formal press release, "I am sorely disappointed in our boys here on the homefront. After a stellar season this is a brutal and debilitating ... literally... loss. We'd rather forget it, thank you very much you *&^*!@%$ reporters!!" As he trudged off, head hanging low, he was overheard muttering, "there goes the league championship..." Meanwhile, the girls were typing up the rules to the next Olympic sport: Co-ed Fully Dressed Ice Wrestling: Give 'Em The Rough... Not In The Buff.

Beyond technical fouling for Lasa and Brinklow

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He was putrid. Farias was not hesitant about replacing Brinklow, quickly calling a good buddy of his from Indiana and asking him whether or not he would like the job.

"Yea, I gave Bobby Knight a call,' Farias said. "That guy is a good basketball coach. He knows exactly how to get the most out of his players, and respect him for that. Personally, I model myself after him." Knight has evidently accepted the job as Freshman Head Coach, and he will leave Indiana officially in coming weeks. Knight issued a press released about his new job: "Those freshmen better be ready for what's coming to them, because I ain't takin' no [expletive] from [expletive] nobody."

Photo courtesy Yearbook

LAURA LASA: "I could take [former Patriot Steve DeOssie] on or off the court any day of the week and he knows it. He's all talk and no action."

Lexington ended up losing to the Patriot All-Stars 84-79 in one of the biggest upsets of all time, and Farias was not pleased after the game. "We got no production out of our big three. Ifill, Taj, Nawoichik, and Solomon." When told that he had mentioned four players instead of three, Farias kindly apologized. "Are you listening to me? I said Ifill, Solomon, and Nawoichik. And Taj. Our big three. Are you going to listen to me, or are you going to write some [expletive] article on your own?"

Photo by Dan Myung

STICKED IT TO 'IM - Wielding the now-broken blade of her blood-stained ice hockey stick that she used to cripple the wrestlers, Girls' Ice Hockey demoness senior Jennie Choi exudes utter nefariousness.

Musket

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Photo courtesy Yearbook

DON'T TOUCH ME PLEASE, I HATE THE WAY YOU TEASE - Handball player Ethan Fried lunges for the ball with his hands, careful not to use his feet in any way, lest he violate the sacred rules of HANDBALL.

Brawl erupts after Pats-Lexington charity game

Brinklow, Lasa charged, released on bond

By Dave Ly

The New England Patriots recently made a visit to Lexington High School. They came, they saw, they conquered. And when they left, they exited in style—under arrest. To close out the winter sports season, both the boys and girls basketball teams combined to take on six players from past and present New England Patriots teams. The game was meant for charity purposes, but the end result seemed more like the Royal Rumble. The incident began in the second half, when current 330-pound Patriots offensive tackle Max Lane climbed up onto the scorers table and jumped into the crowd.

"I just lost my bearings there for a minute. I swear I was at the Paradise Club again. I was moshing with the best of them. Drew was there. And you were there. And you, and you, and you!" Lane said as he was being escorted away by cops at the finally of the game. Lane injured four Lexington fans, one being Mr. 50-50 himself, Harry Laye, who happened to be sitting in the front row. Seeing that his buddy Laye had been squashed by Lane, freshman boys' basketball coach Tom Brinklow leaped over the scorers' table and started to wrestle with Lane. The two went at it, sumo style, for about five minutes until referee Karen Boudreau broke up the fight. However, as soon as that battle had finished, another one started. Girls' varsity basketball head coach Laura Lasa, who had struggled on the court along with Brinklow during the game, finally had enough of former Patriots long snapper Steve DeOssie. After DeOssie taunted Lasa by saying that he would not "dare play rough with a woman," Lasa decided to show him that women could compete with the men. However, instead of posting him up on the blocks, Lasa punched him in the face.

"That dirty, no good slime-ball. [Basketball coach Laura Lasa] thinks she can get away with. . ."

-former Patriots long snapper Steve DeOssie

"The guy's a creep," Lasa said. "I could take him on or off the court any day of the week and he knows it. He's all talk and no action." DeOssie responded to the punch with a dirty tactic of his own...he picked up Lasa and body slammed her to the hardwood floor.

"That dirty, no good slime ball," DeOssie said of Lasa. "She thinks she can get away with..." DeOssie was not able to finish his sentence, as Lasa as well as girls basketball co-captain Andrea Pawliczek jumped on his back. Unable to handle both of them, DeOssie was thoroughly beaten to a pulp by the duo. DeOssie was last sighted grumbling about the poor refereeing at the charity game while being taking out of the arena on a stretcher.

The biggest basketball news of the day was the firing of Brinklow by Coach Bob Farias. After watching the former Lexington High School basketball star go 0 for 37 from the field, Farias not only benched Brinklow in the second half but released him of any and all titles he may have held at LHS.

"I have always had a lot of respect for Brinklow, until today," said Farias, "Watching him play out there made me sick.

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Inside

Secret Life of Phil Lanoue - Principal Phil, ain't your "pal" anymore; what happens after-hours in his office. p 1.

Is Science Fair? - Trials and tribulations among science fair entrants. p 1.

Supah Buffah - Why students and faculty have turned this common janitorial tool into this spring's hot item. p 2.

Girls' Ice Hockey proves who really wears the pants

By Buck E. Foe and R.E. Daction

In a shocking display of brutal violence on the morning of March 31, the Lexington girls' hockey team viciously attacked the wrestling team, screaming "we'll kick your Lycra-wearing sissy #$&#)*@$!" Principal Philip Lanoue was forced to call Officer Dana Ham and Marge, the infamous "Alliance" parking lot security guard, to rectify the situation.

[Jennie] Choi stunned the gathering first-lunch crowd. . . with her ingenious "Hockey Stick to The Knee A La Tonya Harding" maneuver. [Nick] Storch was seen limping off, screaming "Why me?! Why me?!"

When the trio arrived on the scene of the horrendous brawl, Marge, having been a star wrestler in high school, realized the potential for a "really wild wrestling match." She donned the traditional black and white striped reffing outfit, which strangely enough, she had readily available, and blew the whistle, as freshman hockey star Emily Gryp and senior wrestler Riccardo Rullo began the first match of the day. Marge later admitted, after heavy questioning by Tony "Undercover CIA agent" Capezza, that she just couldn't pass up the chance to referee such an exciting event. Perhaps the most exhiliarating match of the impromptu tournament was the face off between seniors Jennie "Not So Defensive" Choi and Nick "Headbutted" Storch. It was truly a match up of epic proportions. Choi stunned the rapidly

COLD WAR continued on page 5

24-hour Tag-Team Thumb War Tourney gives 24-hour Relay Challenge the finger

By Dave Kong and Owen Patrick

After laughing at the absurdity of the 24-hour Relay Challenge, an event in which volunteers walk around the town track for no apparent reason, four students recently formulated a plan for a more entertaining way of wasting an entire day. Over the morning announcements on Friday, March 27, senior Matt Saradjian, junior Jasmine Spidle, sophomore Liora Halperin, and freshman Andres Reyes officially introduced their 24-hour Tag-Team Thumb War Tournament to the school community.

"We thought, 'if we're going to do something completely useless for 24 hours, it might as well be something fun!'" said Saradjian, secretary of the National Honor Society and mastermind behind the rival group. The activity of choice was a topic of debate, however. The three youngest planners wanted to have a 24-hour Tennis Tournament, but Saradjian was eventually able to sway their decisions with a modicum of diplomacy. Junior Josh Leopold witnessed Saradjian's amazing debating ability. "After the three of them [Halperin, Reyes, and Spidle] started yelling and threatening Matt with their tennis rackets, he quickly reached into his bag and whipped out 'The Binder' and just sort of held it out at them. They were pretty quiet after that." But Reyes remarked: "Secretly, I think Liora, Jasmine, and I got the better deal. Did you notice that we kept '24-hour' and 'Tournament' the same? We only let Matt change one word!"

In preparation for the event, scheduled for April 30-31 at the Fleet Center in Boston, the quartet has led several gym class clinics and discussions on the intricate strategy of winning a battle of thumbs. Said Halperin, "The response has been overwhelming! I have never seen so many thumbs up. We are currently petitioning the MIAA [Massachusetts Intergalactic Athletic Association] to make fighting in thumb wars a varsity sport."

Soon after announcing the details of their enticing event, the organizers were flooded with calls from prospective thumb wrestlers. Enthusiastic senior class president and thumb wrestler Rasheed Townes said, "Oh boy! Think of all those people you can touch. It's like an

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